

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2101
ANSWERED ON - 19/03/2025

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

2101 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which Government plans to implement the National Education Policy (NEP's) language policy which emphasizes mother tongue and regional languages, while also ensuring that students have access to english language education, which is crucial for social and economic mobility; and
- (b) the concrete steps taken by Government to address the infrastructure gaps and funding shortages that may hinder the successful implementation of the NEP, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) & (b) : The National Education Policy, 2020 lays lot of stress on promoting multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. NEP provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/ mother tongue/ local language/ regional language upto at least class 5 and preferably upto class 8. The policy also provides for making available high quality text books in home language/ mother tongue and encouraging teachers to use bilingual approach while teaching. In order to achieve this objective the Government is integrating multilingualism at school and higher education levels by providing reading materials in Indian languages so that students have the choice to study in their mother tongue/local language.

NEP-2020 places strong emphasis on leveraging technology for strengthening various facets of education including preserving and promoting the nation's diverse linguistic heritage/diversity. Higher Educational Institutions are free to impart education through any language as per needs and local condition. For leveraging technology for Bharatiya Bhashas,

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is running a Bhasha Sangam programme as also a Machine Translation Cell which is translating various books into the scheduled languages. Course material including text books and teaching resource are available on Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) portal in 33 Indian Languages. In order to further facilitate education through Indian languages, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also asked its affiliated schools to consider using Indian languages, as enumerated in the Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution, as the medium of instruction from Foundational stage till end of Secondary stage i.e. from pre-primary classes till class XII as an optional medium in addition to other existing options.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have leveraged Anuvadini App to translate books for Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses and Technical books like engineering and law in multiple Indian languages. The translated books are available on e-KUMBH portal. UGC and AICTE have issued guidelines for preparation of text books and supporting the teaching-learning process in the mother tongue/local languages. Technical education is being imparted in certain AICTE approved institutions in various languages. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been conducted in 13 languages. Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) is also conducted in 13 languages.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has launched Mission Digital India Bhashini in the year 2022 to develop core language technologies for speech and text translation for 22 Scheduled Indian languages in the open source. The Bhashini open Application Programming Interface (APIs) for language translation in text and voice have been listed on API Setu (<https://apisetu.gov.in>). Bhashini APIs are available for anyone to integrate with any application.
